(d) the time by when these would be identified; and

(e) the amount of money that would be required as subsidy for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (e) A Statement has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 on introduction of Targeted PDS and copies of the detailed guidelines including information on various aspects issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House.

Scheme to provide Highly Subsidised Cereals to Poor

879. SHRI KRISHNHA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a scheme to provide highly subsidised cereals to the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for determining the poor beneficiaries of the scheme;

(d) the percentage by which the existing food subsidy is likely to rise as a result thereof;

(e) the estimated poor population falling under the criteria likely to be benefited by the scheme; and

(f) the estimated increase in the supply of foodgrains through PDS for distribution to the poor and the manner in which Government propose to maintain the additional supply of foodgrains to the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government of India have decided to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor. A detailed Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and copies of the detailed guidelines including information on various aspects of TPDS issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House.

Quota of Sugar, Wheat and Rice for Bihar

880. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quota of sugar, wheat and rice released to Bihar during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was far below the requirement of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The following is the allocation and off-take of rice, wheat and sugar to Bihar State during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97:—

(In '000 MTs)

YEAR	RICE		WHEAT		SUGAR
	Alln.	Off-take	Alln.	Off-** take	Allocation*
1994-95	372.00	39.70	714.00	222.30	407.88
1995-96	381.60	23.50	705.60	227.30	426.80
1996-97	389.60	26.10**	697.60	351.70**	464.12

*Off take reported to be 100%

**Off take figures are from April, 1996 to January, 1997.

Thus lifting of foodgrains by Bihar Government is far below the quantities allotted.

Supply of Cloth Under PDS

881. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(A) whether Government propose to suuply cloth to families below poverty line at specially subsidised rates through the PDS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Food Articles Supplied to Punjab for SCs, STs and OBCs etc.

882. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foodgrain articles alongwith their quantities allotted to the State of Punjab during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether allotment of these foodgrain items have been made after taking into account the population of SCs, STs, Backward Classes, minorities, poors etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The quantities allocated to Government of Punjab during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

(In '000 MT)

	ALLOCATION	
YEAR	WHEAT	RICE
1995-96	155.00	16.65
1996-97	121.00	18.00

(b) and (c) The monthly allocation of foodgrains are based on part offtake in the States, their relative needs, stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc. Further allocation area-wise/population-wise is made by the concerned State/UT as functional responsobility for implementation of PDS within the jurisdiction of State Governments/ UT Administrations lies entirely with them.

Shortcomings in the Public Distribution System

883. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the expenditure incurred on administrative activities and on foodgrains, etc. to make the Public Distribution System effective all over the country during the current and last three years;

(b) the State-wise monetary burden on the Central Government on account of distribution of foodgrains and oil at subsidised rates; and

(c) the shortcomings found in the Public Distribution System and whether any assessment has been made to find out whether the citizens are satisfied with this system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments; Central Government makes available PDS commodities at Central Issue Prices (CIP) to the States/UT Administrations. The operational responsibility for implementing the PDS vests entirely with the State Governments/UT Administrations. This Department does not maintain the State-wise details of expenditure on administrative activities on PDS.

(c) No major complaints from States/UTs regarding dissatisfaction of citizens with the PDS have been received. However, in a vast operation like PDS where commodities worth Rs. 15,000 crores are distributed through the network of more than 4.37 lakh fair price shops throughout the country to about 16 crores families, some shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out altogether.